



Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire

February 2008 Newsletter
Keeping You Informed!

A Statewide Effort organized
by the New Hampshire
Department of Health and
Human Services, Division of
Public Health Services

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About Our Newsletter

Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire! Our newsletter is intended to keep stakeholders informed on key public health planning and performance improvement initiatives in New Hampshire.

[Public Health
Improvement Services
Council minutes and
membership list are
available on the DHHS
website](#)

The Public Health Improvement Services Council Updates

HB 491 establishing the Public Health Improvement Services Council was signed into law on June 28, 2007. The council will sustain the oversight of the public health improvement efforts that began with the Public Health Improvement Action Plan Advisory Committee (PHIAP). The Council is fortunate to be chaired by Representative Trinka Russell and to have Senator John Gallus among its members.

At the February meeting, the council reviewed the progress of the six Public Health Improvement Action Plan workgroups as they marked their first year of working together. At the next meeting the council will review priorities of the work groups and assess the resources needed to meet them.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2008 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM in the Health and Human Services Building on Hazen Drive.

[Public Health
Regionalization Task
Force membership list,
minutes and presentations
are available on the
DHHS website](#)

What's New with Public Health Regionalization?

Since July 2007, the Division of Public Health Services has been convening the Public Health Regionalization Initiative task force with the goal to develop a performance-based public health delivery system, which provides the 10 essential public health services throughout New Hampshire. The group meets monthly and [posts all minutes, presentations, meeting dates and locations on the Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire website](#). Meetings are open to interested parties.

What is Public Health?

New Hampshire adopted the Institute of Medicine definition:

***“What we as a society
do collectively to
assure the conditions
in which people can
be healthy.”***

A great deal of progress has been made in drafting the concepts behind this performance-based public health system for New Hampshire. There are still many details to be worked out. We are fortunate that we will be able to engage some national experts to assist us in the process. Following the January meeting, we articulated key points we believe we have general consensus on and questions that remain, as shown in the table on page 2. With the aid of a grant from one of our national partners, consultants will assist us in answering these complex questions as we move forward.

**New Hampshire's Six
Public Health
Performance Strategic
Priorities**

- 1) Inform, educate and empower people about health issues
- 2) Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems
- 3) Mobilize community partnerships and actions to identify and solve health problems
- 4) Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
- 5) Develop a communication plan
- 6) Workforce Development

What We Know/Have General Consensus For	Questions Remaining
A tiered system with primary and comprehensive public health entities.	Funding –how much, where will it come from?
The composition of core primary staff in each region and other staff shared by 2 or more regions.	
Public health regions will recognize existing infrastructure.	How many regions? What geographic composition?
There will be a link to a governmental entity	What will that link to a governmental agency look like?
Entities' performance will be based on essential public health services and standards leading to accreditation	
This process will be evolutionary. We may expand essential public health service delivery over time.	
The state will continue to provide some services to regions (disease investigation, restaurant inspection).	
Statutory changes are needed.	What exactly will those changes be?
Widespread input/feedback are needed.	How will final decisions be made?



**New Hampshire's Public Health Improvement Action Plan 2008-
Due Out Soon**

New Hampshire's Public Health Improvement Action Plan 2008 is at the printers and will be mailed out in March. The report summarizes the accomplishments of the six PHIAP work groups and delineates next steps. Look for the report in your mailbox and on our website.

What's Happening in the PHIAP Work Groups?

PHIAP work groups continue to meet and carry out vital public health performance improvement initiatives based on the six Public Health Strategic Priorities. An update will be provided in the next newsletter.

[Work group action plans and presentations are posted on the website](#)

Visit Our Website!

**Improving the Public's
Health in New Hampshire**
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/DPHS/iphnh.htm>

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